By: Nicolas Bolatto
From: Ritchie Park Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Gramzinski

IF I WERE MAYOR...

If I were Mayor I would encourage my citizens to "go green".

I would create a campaign to make the public aware of the damage car emissions do to the environment, and I would encourage the use of public transportation. I would get more electric or biofuel buses, increase their routes and frequency, and reduce the fares so more people would ride them instead of cars. I would also propose to get electric cars or hybrids for the police.

I would promote energy independence by proposing property tax incentives for home owners that use alternative sources of energy in their homes, like installing solar panels or small wind turbines of the type that can be put in a backyard. I would also encourage the use of energy efficient appliances, and better insulation in houses and public buildings.

I would encourage the public to mulch leaves or to compost them and use them as fertilizer in their gardens to save collection and disposal costs. At the local landfill, I would install a methane gas collection system and use it to generate electricity.

I would promote local farmer markets. By buying local, we help the city's economy and save on transportation costs. Furthermore, I would encourage farmers to not use pesticides and to grow organic crops.

My town would be Earth friendly, and we would try in every way to help our planet.

5-3-50